

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1993

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox

February 20, 2014

An act to add Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 48960) to Chapter 6 of Part 27 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1993, as introduced, Fox. Pupils: bullying: counseling services.

Existing law, the Safe Place to Learn Act, requires the State Department of Education to assess whether local educational agencies have adopted a policy that prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on specified characteristics. Existing law also authorizes a school to suspend or recommend for expulsion a pupil who has engaged in an act of bullying.

This bill, the Nigel Hardy Act, would require a school to offer counseling services to every pupil who attends the school who has been the victim of an act of bullying or who has been found to have engaged in an act of bullying, as provided. The bill would also require a school district to provide training on the topic of bullying to every teacher employed by the school district and would require every teacher employed by the school district on or after July 1, 2015, to complete the training. By imposing additional requirements on schools and school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This measure shall be known and may be cited
2 as the Nigel Hardy Act.

3 SEC. 2. Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 48960) is added
4 to Chapter 6 of Part 27 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education
5 Code, to read:

6
7 Article 3.5. Bullying

8
9 48960. For purposes of this article, “bullying” has the same
10 meaning as set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (r) of Section
11 48900.

12 48961. A school shall offer counseling services to every pupil
13 who attends the school who, on or after January 1, 2015, has been
14 the victim of an act of bullying or who, on or after January 1, 2015,
15 has been found to have engaged in an act of bullying.

16 48962. A school district shall provide training on the topic of
17 bullying to every teacher employed by the school district. Every
18 teacher employed by a school district on or after July 1, 2015, shall
19 be required to complete the training.

20 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
21 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
22 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
23 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
24 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.